



Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

Savannah Update

El Monte Cemetery Association

Volume 3, Number 1

September 2008

Letter from Your President

Members and Friends,

I am pleased to share some wonderful news with all of you. We submitted a letter to Rosemead Mayor John Tran requesting help from the City in replacing the old chain link fencing along Valley Boulevard. Also included was a bid to landscape the inside fence line on Valley Blvd., east from the maintenance building. The new fencing was bid so it matches the wrought iron fencing, donated by M. C. Gill Corporation, along the Mission Drive cemetery property line.



On August 26, 2008, Mayor John Tran submitted our request to the Rosemead City Council. The City Council in a strong showing of support, voted 5 to 0 in favor of funding both items. This is a very large gift and greatly appreciated by everyone in attendance. As soon as funding is on deposit, we will expedite the work in the hope of having it completed for the Oktoberfest, which takes place on October 25, 2008. Please remember in gratitude the following Rosemead City Council Members:

John Tran, Mayor
John Nunez, Mayor Pro Tem
Margaret Clark, Councilmember
Polly Low, Councilmember
Gary Taylor, Councilmember

I would also like to thank Barbara Murphy for her support of the Savannah Memorial Park. Barbara helped in this issue and works tirelessly to make the Oktoberfest a success. Attend the Oktoberfest on October 25, 2008 from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm. on Mission Drive. Visit our booth and take a tour of the cemetery during daylight hours. Your attendance and support will be appreciated.

Please continue to support the Savannah Memorial Park Cemetery with your donations and help. We must preserve this historic site for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Edwin (Randy) Wiggins
President



Veterans Day

November 11, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Wilbur Carmicheal was 28 years old, serving with the U.S. Army in Italy during WWII. He was wounded in action and died of his wounds June 4, 1944. Initially buried in Italy, his remains were eventually returned to the United States and he was buried at Savannah Memorial Park.

Pfc. Carmicheal was awarded two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart.

When we learned that Pfc. Carmicheal's headstone was missing, apparently for many years, volunteers undertook to rectify the situation. After several months spent researching and gathering the appropriate documentation to request a replacement stone, we are thrilled that we have now received the stone and will unveil it on Veterans Day.

Please join us to honor this veteran.

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NOTABLE QUOTABLE

Every man should keep a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends.

Henry Ward Beecher
(American Clergyman, 1813-1887)

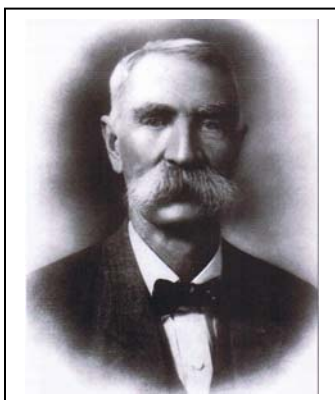


An Early Pioneer . . .

James Cleminson

James Cleminson was a representative of one of the pioneer American families of the El Monte District. He was born at Independence, Missouri, August 7, 1833, son of John and Lydia (Lightner) Cleminson. The children, who came with their parents to California in 1852, were: James, whose name heads this sketch; John Jr., Lydia and Diantha. Laura, wife of G.W. Durfee, and Mary M. wife of E.T. Mills, came a few years later.

The journey of the Cleminsons was a long and tedious one. The first winter was spent at or near Harrisonville, Missouri; the next, at Tucson, Arizona. At one time, losing nearly all their stock, one wagon was hauled by hand, sixty miles, and sold at Santa Cruz, Arizona.



After trials and troubles, which we have not the space to relate, the family reached this sunny land, James arriving at San Diego in time to participate in celebrating the national birthday, July 4, 1852, and the family, a few days later.

At San Diego, the first American wedding ever solemnized was the marriage of Lydia Cleminson with S. S. Reeves. This occurred April 15, 1853. After a short residence at San Diego, the family made their home in San Bernardino County, and in 1858, upon a ranch near El Monte. The mother died, August 11, 1873, and the father, November 28, 1879. He was a man well-known in Los Angeles County, and respected by all.

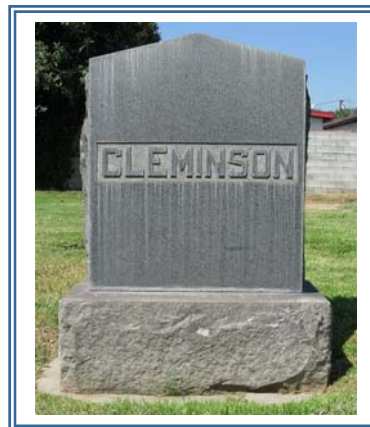
Calendar of Upcoming Events

- September 27, 2008** Board of Directors Meeting
9:30 a.m., El Monte Historical Museum
(Board members only)
- October 25, 2008** Oktoberfest
11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Mission Drive & Rosemead
- November 11, 2008** Veterans Day
2:00 p.m., Savannah Memorial Park
Join us to honor a fallen hero

James Cleminson married, in San Bernardino County, Mrs. Caroline Beck, widow of Thomas Beck. She was a lady of English birth. Two children were born of this union, James D. and Willis S. The former, resided on his ranch two miles north of El Monte, and the latter died, January 10, 1882, aged four years and three months. Their mother departed this life March 27, 1880, aged thirty-six years. From her first marriage, she had one son, Charles Edward.

On October 11, 1885, occurred the second marriage of the subject of this sketch to Miss Emma Crist. She was born in the State of Iowa, a daughter of Levi Crist. Since the death, August 13, 1910, of Mr. Cleminson, she resided in Los Angeles, with her son, Hugh Delbert Cleminson, who was born November 18, 1886. Mr. Cleminson owned fifty acres of land at El Monte, and also a tract of ten acres near Azusa. Politically, he was identified with the Republican Party, and was a member of the Ancient Order of Free Masons. He died August 13, 1910.

Source:
http://www.cagenweb.com/re/losangeles/ElMonteBios/CLEMINSON_James.htm



MYSTERIOUS MARKERS

by Janet Chase Hassler, age 89

Visitors to our cemetery are often curious about fourteen small stone markers, labeled with the letters C through R (minus I and Q). They are the covers of small individual vaults for the cremated ashes of my family. My father, Ralph A. Chase, bought space equal to about two graves in 1944 and had the vaults built in 1963. It is a portion of a large family plot of twenty-five burials of five generations, the oldest one dated to 1864.

My father made these cremation vaults available to his descendents based on his belief in "unity and family solidarity. The space is now yours if it suits, although we all pray that many years may pass before there is need for any of the sixteen vaults," he wrote in 1963. Fittingly, he became the first occupant, his ashes taking the space under letter B in 1972. He also expressed concern about the explosive growth of Southern California and the disappearance of land available for burials. He had seen so much of the growth himself, as a Southern California resident since 1890. The cremation vaults are a practical way of dealing with overcrowding in Southern California as well as in our cemetery.

My family has always been concerned with the maintenance of Savannah and the remains of our ancestors. As far back as my preteen years I remember visits to the cemetery to clean graves and place flowers. My father wrote in 1963, ". . . this ground was dedicated to pioneer families; this will continue forever . . ." We all need to work toward that goal and creative ideas, like my father's, can help preserve Savannah.



Chase Family cremation plots

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▪ We are very excited to announce that Savannah Memorial Park now has a web site. The site is very basic at this time, but we hope to improve on it as time goes on. This was accomplished at no cost to Savannah. Check it out at www.savannahcemetery.org.

▪ All documented burials at Savannah have now been posted at www.findagrave.com. We are in the process of photographing every headstone and monument in the cemetery and are posting them as we get them. You can imagine that this will be an ongoing project for some time.

Financial News

	06/01/08- 08/31/08	To Date*
Donations	\$1,677	\$25,882
Memorial Donations		\$1,111
Oktoberfest		\$28,218
Plot Sales/Services	\$1,000	\$7,550
Yard Sales		\$1,017

* "To Date" is from September 2006.

Help these funds grow!! Send a donation:

El Monte Cemetery Association
P. O. Box 4247
El Monte, California 91734

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



Don & Mary Alley
Harold & Sally Baquet
Dwain & Amy Crum
Nancy Goldbloom
Don & Edith Harrington

Misc. Memorial Day Donors
Judith Mitchell
Roger Storer
Nora Vincent
Cecilia Lower Wictor



Oktoberfest

October 25, 2008

11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Mission Drive @ Rosemead Park

A fun day for all. Savannah will have a booth and will be conducting daylight tours of the cemetery.



El Monte Cemetery Association
P. O. Box 4247
El Monte, California 91734